



Natural Resources Conservation Service
101 South Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501-7602

June 2004

Dear Producer:

The Punta De Agua-Tramperos Watershed in northeastern New Mexico and in the northwestern Panhandle of Texas is one of 18 watersheds in the nation selected for the new Conservation Security Program (CSP) in 2004. This watershed includes parts of Dallam, Hartley and Oldham counties in Texas, and Union, Harding and Quay counties in New Mexico. We are contacting land owners and operators in the Punta De Agua-Tramperos Watershed to let them know about this opportunity.

As a landowner or operator in the Punta De Agua-Tramperos Watershed, you may be eligible to apply for the CSP during a signup period scheduled for July 6 to July 30, 2004.

The CSP program will identify and reward those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

Payments can include four components: 1) an annual stewardship payment, 2) an annual payment for maintenance, 3) a one-time new practice payment, and 4) an enhancement payment. The participant can enroll a portion of their operation or the entire operation in the program.

At a minimum, farms and ranches will need to meet soil and water quality criteria. This could include nutrient management, pest management and prescribed grazing. The participant will be required to provide documentation that demonstrates accomplishment of the practice(s).

CSP is a competitive program. All qualified applicants will be entered into an enrollment category. Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman will select the highest ranking applications to be funded.

To help you assess your opportunities in CSP, informational meetings will be held as follows:

July 7 – Hartley Community Center, Hartley, TX, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. CST

July 8 – Sedan Fire Station, Sedan, NM, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. MST

For additional information about the upcoming meetings, you may contact your local NRCS office in Dalhart, TX at (806) 244-2782 or in Clayton, NM at (505) 374-7262.

Sincerely,

David Guest
Texas Watershed Manager